

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 06653 291019Z

21

ACTION ST-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 USIA-15 AID-05 PER-03 DRC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2533

UNCLAS JIDDA 6653

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: APER, SA

SUBJECT: TRAVEL TO JIDDA

REF: STATE 172327

1. TWO PERSONNEL RECENTLY TRANSFERRED TO EMBASSY JIDDA WERE ROUTED THROUGH CAIRO WHERE THEY HAD TO TRANSFER AIRLINES TO CONTINUE TO JIDDA. IN ONE CASE, BAGGAGE WAS LOST, AND IN THE SECOND CASE A FAMILY OF SIX WAS DELAYED APPROXIMATELY SIX HOURS IN MAKING CONNECTIONS. WHILE SUCH DIFFICULTIES COULD BE ENCOUNTERED AT ANY AIRPORT, WE FEEL THAT DIFFICULTIES DESCRIBED ARE PARTICULARLY SYMPTOMATIR OF COMPLICATIONS ALMOST CUSTOMARY IN FLYING FROM CAIRO TO JIDDA. THE REASON IS THAT WITH THE TURMOIL OF BEIRUT, EGYPT HAS BECOME THE FAVORITE VACATION AREA FOR SAUDIS AND THE RESULT IS A SEVERE OVERTAXING OF AIRPORT FACILITIES SUPPORTING FLIGHTS BETWEEN CAIRO AND JIDDA.

2. WE THEREFORE SUGGEST THAT PERSONNEL TRAVELING TO JIDDA BE ROUTED IN ONE OF THE FOLLOWING MANNERS AND THAT CAIRO AND BEIRUT BE BY-PASSED WHENEVER POSSIBLE: A) BRITISH AIRWAYS FLYING DIRECT FROM LONDON TO JIDDA ON WEDNESDAYS AND FRIDAYS; B) SAUDIA AIRLINES FLYING DIRECT FROM LONDON TO JIDDA ON TUESDAYS, WEDNESDAYS, THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS, OR SUNDAYS; C) AIR FRANCE FLYING DIRECT TO JIDDA FROM PARIS ON WEDNESDAYS AND SUNDAYS; D) SAUDIA FLYING DIRECT TO JIDDA FROM PARIS ON MONDAYS AND FRIDAYS; E) SAUDIA FLYING

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DIRECT TO JIDDA FROM ROME ON THURSDAYS AND SUNDAYS;

F) ALITALIA FLYING DIRECT TO JIDDA FROM ROME ON THURSDAYS
AND SATURDAYS.

3. ANY OF THE ABOVE SHOULD ALLOW TRAVELERS SUFFICIENT
FLEXIBILITY IN THEIR PLANS AND GUARANTEE THAT BOTH
BEIRUT AND CAIRO CAN BE BY-PASSED, THEREBY AVOIDING PROBABLE
TRAVEL COMPLICATIONS AND DELAYS.

4. ABOVE TAKES INTO CONSIDERATION PROVISIONS REFTTEL
REGARDING MOVEMENT VIA U.S. AIR CARRIERS.
AKINS

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